



**Minnesota  
Unitarian  
Universalist  
Social Justice  
Alliance**

## **2017 Annual Report**

Dear Minnesota Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Alliance supporters,

As we reflect on the past year, what is true time and time again is that we are stronger together. In another year in which fear and anger were popular themes across the political spectrum, MUUSJA brought people together to build a community that emphasized shared values, interconnectedness, love, and joy. We could not have done this work without the deep commitment of our courageous staff, generous donors, UU social justice warriors, and so many community partners. Thank you!

This year, we grew our staff by hiring Pastor Danny Givens, who serves as the organization's half-time statewide organizer. Pastor Givens logged hundreds of miles driving across the state to meet Unitarian Universalists to help them build their social justice work. As a statewide organization, MUUSJA is committed to partnership with communities and congregations across Minnesota. MUUSJA also continued to leverage technology to connect UUs with one another through covenant groups, convening calls, and the Leader's Laboratory.

MUUSJA has been incredibly lucky to have Rev. Ashley Horan as the executive director since 2014. In her time with the organization, she has refocused the organization to prioritize capacity building and convening. As a result of her vision and dedication to the work, MUUSJA was called on multiple times this year to provide advice and resources to other state action advocacy networks. This past year, Ashley also led several national trainings on the work that MUUSJA is doing.

Unitarian Universalists cannot do this work alone. This year, MUUSJA continued to collaborate with MARCH, which is an open coalition of pro-LGBTQ faith leaders from diverse communities, religious institutions, and spiritual traditions working together to build a movement of people of faith as partners in the spiritual, moral, political work of dismantling white supremacy and other intersecting oppressions. We were also part of the Inter-Nātional Initiative for Transformative Collaboration, which is a collective of First Nations/Indigenous peoples and allies that is an evolving movement dedicated to helping humans come back into right relationship with each other and the earth.

Thank you for your partnership this past year in helping MUUSJA grow and live more deeply into its mission. We are stronger when we come together!



Sherri Knuth and Taylor Putz  
MUUSJA Board Co-Chairs

# ...TO BUILD A JUST AND LOVING WORLD

As Minnesota's Unitarian Universalist statewide advocacy network, MUUSJA's mission is to "unleash courageous leadership and collective power to build a just and loving world." By working with Unitarian Universalist individuals and congregations, as well as our community partners and interfaith networks, MUUSJA has become an integral leader in the ecosystem of faith-based work for justice and equity in Minnesota and beyond.

We live into our mission through two main spheres of work: **Convening** (bringing people and communities together to witness for justice and build relationships of solidarity and power) and **Capacity Building** (providing opportunities for people to develop concrete skills, leadership abilities, and spiritual grounding for the long-haul work of bending the moral arc of the universe toward justice). More often than not, these spheres are overlapping, since we bring people together to build skills and relationships to transform the world. A sampling of our activities and programs in 2017 include:

- Co-leading the "Discomfort & Disruption" Community Bystander Training with partners from MARCH (Multifaith Anti-Racism, Change, & Healing)
- Working with Lena K. Gardner of Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism and Caitlin Breedlove and Nora Rasman of Standing on the Side of Love to offer in-person and virtual trainings for participants in the Women's Marches
- Hosting monthly Convening Calls for social justice leaders in our congregations in MN and beyond
- Supporting the Minister in Residence program at UU Bismarck to continue direct support of Water Protectors at Standing Rock
- Providing key programming for the Twin Cities Youth Con, attended by more than 70 UU youth
- Collaborating with MARCH to plan and facilitate the Sacred Solidarity Network, a cohort of predominantly white congregations in the Twin Cities from a wide variety of religious backgrounds committed to deepening our praxis of racial justice
- Engaging in public witness for justice at rallies, marches, lobby days, and protests
- Facilitating the "Resisting Islamophobia" cluster gathering in St. Cloud
- Hosting "Resistance & Resilience," MUUSJA's Statewide Social Justice Summit
- Representing Minnesota Unitarian Universalists at the 2017 Pride Festival & Parade
- Serving as a summer work site for the UU College of Social Justice's Global Justice Interns
- Hiring our first Statewide Organizer, Pastor Danny Givens, with the generous support of a grant from the UU Service Committee and a match from four of our large UU congregations
- Gathering MUUSJA supporters at "Radical Collaboration, our annual celebration and fundraiser, featuring a keynote presentation by Rev. Karen Van Fossan of the Bismarck UU congregation
- Co-sponsoring a congregational cluster gathering in Underwood, MN, with MidAmerica Region
- Offering online Covenant Groups to nurture the spiritual lives of social justice activists
- Offering congregational consulting via in-person workshops, 1:1 support for leaders, and consultation with congregation social justice teams
- Developing the CommunityWell asset mapping and resource sharing program, designed to make the human, infrastructural, and financial resources of faith communities available for the use of movements for justice led by frontline communities

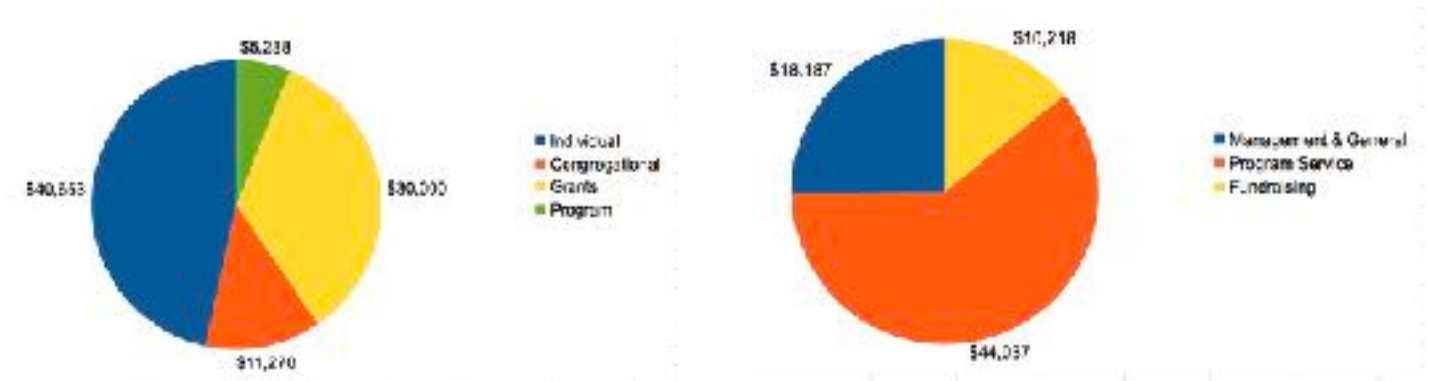
The following pages give a literal snapshot of just some of the ways MUUSJA lived into our mission in 2017. We are deeply grateful for our deep community of Unitarian Universalist activists and supporters, as well as our partners from a wide range of religious traditions and secular social justice organizations who are all endeavoring to show up, together, to create a world in which all people are free.

# MUUSJA By the Numbers

## Our Financial Picture in 2017

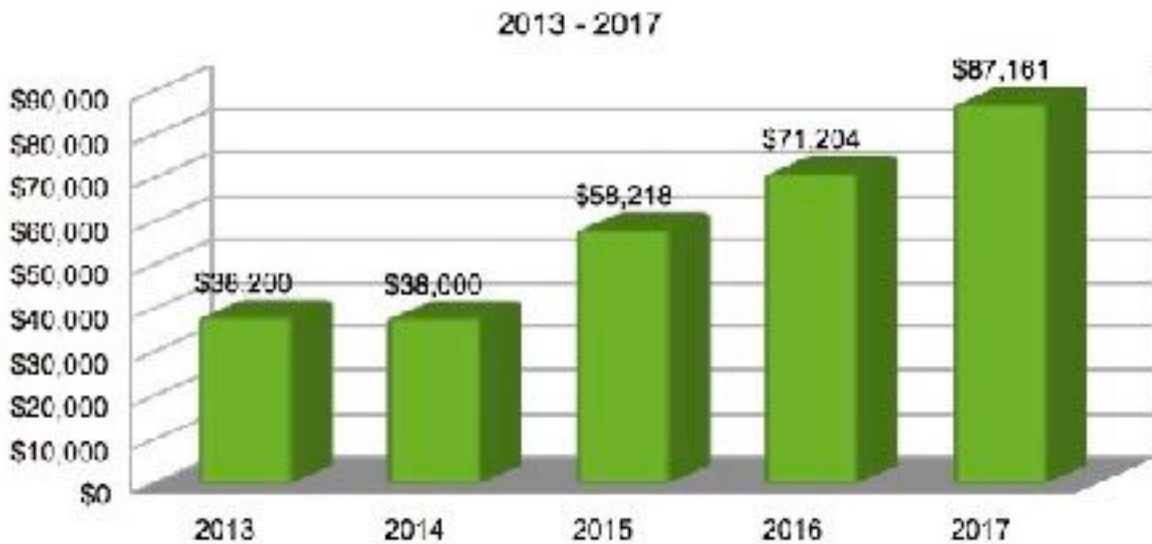
**Total 2017 Income: \$87,161.00**

**Total 2017 Expense: \$72,442.00**



## MUUSJA's Financial Growth

### Actual Income, 2013-2017

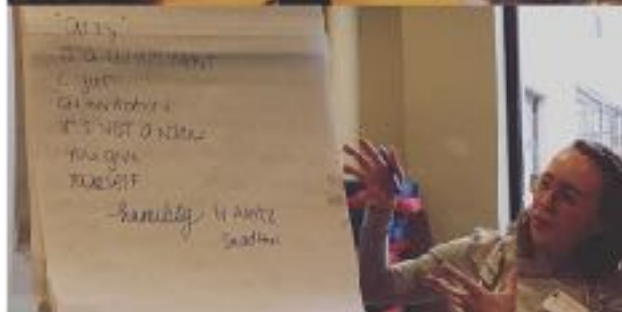


# UU Pride 2018 - #AffirmedAndCelebrated



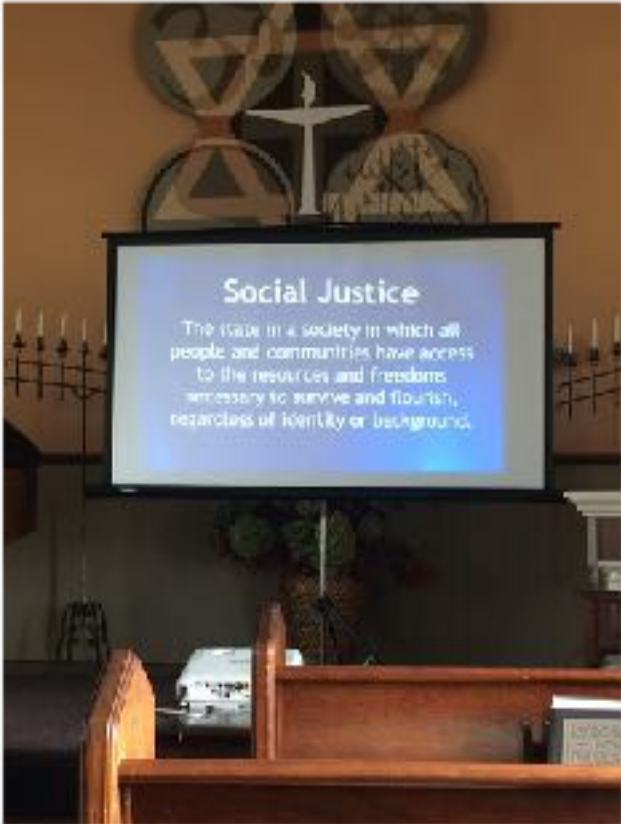
# Resistance & Resilience

## 2017 Statewide Social Justice Summit



# Northern MN Congregational Cluster Gathering

## UU Fellowship of Underwood, MN



# YoUth SOALS & Twin Cities Youth Con

February 2017





# **Sacred Solidarity Network**

**A program of MARCH (Multifaith Anti-Racism, Change, & Healing)**



# **Public Witness for Justice**

**#Minnesota8 Deportation Hearings**



# Congregational Consulting Workshop

## UU Church of Minnetonka



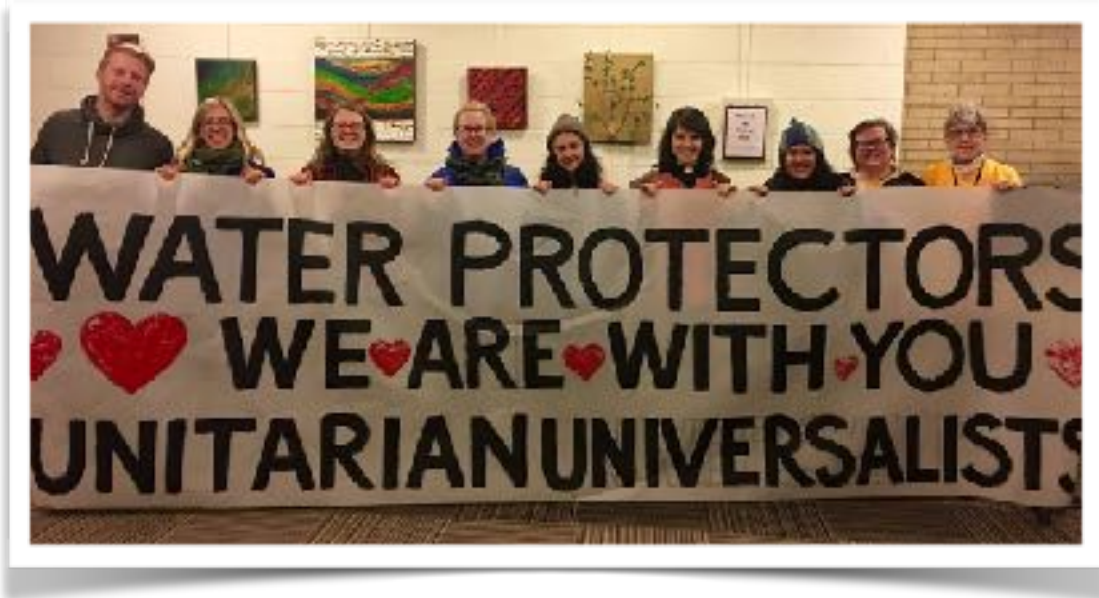
# Congregational Cluster Gathering

## Resisting Islamophobia in Central Minnesota - St. Cloud UU Fellowship



# Solidarity With Standing Rock

Ongoing Support for Water Protectors and the Ministry in Residence Program at the UU Congregation of Bismarck, ND



# National & Minnesota Women's March

Prep trainings for activists @ First Universalist Church & Online with Standing on the Side of Love



# Radical Collaboration

## MUUSJA's Annual Celebration & Fundraiser - November 2017



**We give our deepest thanks to the many congregations and individual donors who contributed to MUUSJA in 2017:**

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Rochester · First Universalist Church of Minneapolis · Mid America Region UUA · Northwoods Unitarian Universalist Fellowship · Pilgrim House Unitarian Universalist Fellowship · Saint Cloud Unitarian Universalist Fellowship · Spirit Of Life Church · Unitarian Church of Underwood · Unitarian Universalist Church Of Minnetonka · Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Of Northfield · Unity Church - Unitarian · White Bear Unitarian Universalist Church

Aisha Ansano · Alan Mitchell · Alison Edgerton · Andrea Johnson · Angela Wilcox · Anita Martinez · Ann Galloway-Egge · Anne Black-Sinak · Annie Gonzalez Milliken · Anonymous · Ashley Horan · Barbara Flo · Barbara Ford · Barbara Lutz · Beth Tamminen · Bianca Zick · Bill Elwood & Betsy Allis · Bill & Andrea Heier · Bill Weir · Brett Smith · Bruce Johnson · Carin Mrotz · Carol Hiniker · Carol Jackson · Carolyn Pozzini · Caron Wells · Cathryn Pernu · Cecelia Newton · Charlotte Stephens · Charmagne Campbell-Patton · Chuck McKown · Claudia Poser · Dan Berg & Welcome Jerde · David Leppik · Deanna Vandiver · Deborah Allan · Denise Brewer Bailey · Dewayne Davis · Diane Dobitz · Donald Lorr · Drew Rosielle · Elizabeth Atkinson · Elizabeth Brackett · Elizabeth Loeb · Elizabeth Nguyen · Ellen Eastby · Gary Melom · Gene & Anita Martinez · Ian Evison · Jackie Smith · Jacqueline Smolen · Jane Bacon · Jane Ellison · Jane Thomson · Jared Cruz · Jeanne Olson · Jeffrey Snyder · Jennifer Jewell Thomas · Jennifer Otto · Jennifer Schuster · Jill Schwendeman · Jo Weis · Joan Naymark · John Maclaughlin · John Saxhaug · Joyce Blomquist · Judith Carlson · Judith Goebel · Judy Foster · Julianna Gilkinson · Justin Schroeder · Karen Van Fossan · Karen Wills · Karlyn Peterson · Katherine Johnson · Katherine Kosseff · Katherine Slama · Kathleen Burek · Kathryn Urberg · Kay Dawson · Kelli Clement · Kelly Casey · Kenneth Edstrom · Kerri Allen · Kierstin Allen · Kimberly Lund · Kristin Johnstad · Kristin Maier · Kristin Siegesmund · Laura Park · Laura Sherar · Laura Smidzik · Laura Thompson · Lauren Culbert · Laurie Bushbaum · Lena K. Gardner · Lia Rivamonte · Linda Kjerland · Lisa Doege · Lisa Friedman · Lois Hamilton · Luke Stevens-Royer · Lyn Burton · Lynn Buffington · Lynn Rabinovitch · Malia Brandt · Marcia Wattson · Marcy Leussler · Margaret Manderfeld · Mark Bonhorst · Mark Halvorson · Mary Anderson · Mary Lou Werner · Mary Ness · Mary Pickard · Matt Kresl · Maureen A Phillips · Michael Luke · Michelle Crain · Molly Housh Gordon · Nancy & Dennis Cramblit · Nancy Heege · Naomi Wente · Neely Heubach · Oswald J Mayers · Patrick Dougherty · Phyllis Stenerson · Polly Peterson · Polly Talen · Ralph Wyman · Ray Wiedmeyer & Karen Abraham · Rebecca Cramer · Rebecca Voelkel · Rita Chamblin · Rob & Janne Eller-Isaacs · Robert Brooks · Roberta Rott · Ronald Prieve · Ruth Humphrey · Ruth MacKenzie · Sara Mcglynn · Sara McMullen · Sarah Greene · Sean Barron · Shelley Shreffler · Sherri Knuth · Susan Dailey · Susan Keller · Susan Schonfield · Susan Searing · Suzann Willhite · Suzanne Hay · T Sean Brown · Taylor Putz · Thomas Clarke · Thomas Duke · Thue Rasmussen · Tim Stratton & Suzanne Wasilczuk · Victoria Safford · Wayne Schneider · William Arnold